

## **Fairfield County**

### **1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- Don't improve, still be where we are now
- Decay of structure of community (youth move out)
- Economic development
- Progress/ Advancement growth
- Seeing value in education

### **2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Quality teachers-critical (retain and support)
- Attract and retain male teachers
- Offer alternatives for children to be successful- working skills
- Ensuring children have basics
- Everyone needs to have some vision for children-at the top-education
- Church is the only place to reinforce message
- Accountability
- Reinforce the positive with individual students
- Expectations of students- average if okay
- Motivation lacking to move above your situation
- Support for students who are behind- assistance to teachers
- Provide students with information how education pays off
- What is the definition of success for children

#### **Strengths:**

- Businesses/education committee with local resources willing to help
- Grants reading and math
- High school that work
- Middle grades that work
- Exams aptitude
- Expanding technology
- Studying internal
- Doing more for children with less resources
- Success makers program- measures academic progress, teaching people to use data
- Individuality
- Role models
- Volunteers and mentors
- Explain to children expectations
- Believe in them

#### **Challenges:**

- Community is not present in schools- whether all students can achieve (rally around teachers and students)
- Reduce drop out rates of students in grades 7-9, prior to becoming 17
- Parent involvement needs to increase

- Schools need to reach out too
- Student motivational issues abound
- Break cycle of failure
- Expand family literacy programs
- Victim of own limited successes
- Best and brightest go to college, move to other places
- Bring in outside partners- drug, alcohol, abuse, violence, truancy, etc
- Health issues
- Role of motivation- carrot and stick
- Discipline- use as motivational effort
- Alternative paths for some children
- Look at whole child, not just academic standards and accountability
- Too much concentration on the negative-concentrate on individual student's needs

**3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

**4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**